

A new species of *Vantanea* (Humiriaceae) from Amazonian Peru : contribution to the study of the flora and vegetation of Peruvian Amazonia : XX

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A new species of *Vantanea* (Humiriaceae) from Amazonian Peru. Contribution to the study of the flora and vegetation of Peruvian Amazonia. XX

ALWYN H. GENTRY

RÉSUMÉ

GENTRY, A. H. (1990). Une nouvelle espèce de *Vantanea* (Humiriaceae) de l'Amazonie péruvienne. Contribution à l'étude de la flore et de la végétation de l'Amazonie péruvienne. XX. *Candollea* 45: 379-380. En anglais, résumés français et anglais.

L'auteur décrit une nouvelle espèce de l'Amazonie péruvienne: *Vantanea spichigeri* A. Gentry, spec. nov. (Humiriaceae).

ABSTRACT

GENTRY, A. H. (1990). A new species of *Vantanea* (Humiriaceae) from Amazonian Peru. Contribution to the study of the flora and vegetation of Peruvian Amazonia. XX. *Candollea* 45: 379-380. In English, French and English abstracts.

The author describes a new species from Peruvian Amazonia: *Vantanea spichigeri* A. Gentry, spec. nov. (Humiriaceae).

***Vantanea spichigeri* A. Gentry, spec. nov.**

Arbor grandis. Folia rigide-coriacea, utrinque glabra, obovata, apice rotundata vel emarginata, basi cuneata. Inflorescentiae terminales, paniculatae, puberulae. Calyx 2 mm altus, lobis subrotundatis; petala lanceolato-oblongo, (8-)9-11 mm longa, puberula; stamina plus quam 100, filamentis 5-10 mm longis basi coalitis; ovarium ovoideum, dense hirsuto-villosum. Drupa ovoidea vel ellipsoidea, 5-6 cm longa, 3-3.5 cm lata, glabrescens; exocarpium 1-3 mm crassum; endocarpium ca. 5 cm longum, 3 cm latum, superficie non rugosa, ca. 8 valvulis.

Large tree to at least 25 m tall. Branchlets terete, minutely lenticellate, glabrous. Leaves thick-coriaceous, glabrous, entire, obovate, rounded or slightly retuse at apex, obtusely to acutely cuneate at base, 11-22 cm long, 6.5-11 cm wide, with 7-10 pairs of brochidodromous secondary veins, these prominulous below and slightly prominulous above, the surface otherwise smooth, minutely glandular-punctate below; petiole 1-2 cm long. Inflorescence terminal, paniculate with a well-developed central axis, the branchlets puberulous, the rachis glabrescent, bracts early caducous. Calyx 2 mm long, puberulous, the lobes suborbicular; petals whitish (?), lanceolate-oblong, (8-)9-11 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, distinctly minutely puberulous outside at least toward apex, the margins glabrous; stamens more than 100, united at base, the filaments glabrous, of different lengths, 5-10 mm long; the anthers narrowly ovoid, ca. 0.7 mm long, each with 2 bilocular basal thecae and a long narrow connective; disk broadly cupular, glabrous, 1 mm long; ovary ovoid, ca. 3 mm long, densely hirsute-villose. Drupe ovoid to ellipsoid, 5-6 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide, rounded at base,

obtusely acutish at apex, inconspicuously and glabrescently lepidote with flat stellate scales, also with scattered small glands, the exocarp 1-3 mm thick; endocarp woody, ovoid, 5 cm long by 3 cm wide, with 8 narrowly oblong valves.

Type: Peru. Loreto: Reserva forestal Jenaro Herrera, Prov. Requena, 73°45'W, 4°55'S, bosque de terraza, suelo arenoso, tree No. 6120, 125 m alt., March 1984, *Spichiger & al. 1743* (holotype, MO; isotype, G).

Additional collections examined. — (All from type locality): tree No. 6/98, *Spichiger 1742*; tree No. 8/21, *Spichiger & al. 1746* (both G, MO); 180 m alt., 27.7.1986 (fr), *Vasquez & al. 7696* (AMAZ, MO, USM); 24.2.1987 (st), *Gentry & al. 56630* (AMAZ, MO, USM).

This species keys to *V. obovata* (Nees & Mart.) Benth. in Cuatrecasas' (1961) key on account of the glabrous disk, tomentose-hirsute ovoid ovary, relatively large obovate leaves with long petioles, smooth endocarp, pubescent petal exteriors, numerous stamens, and relatively large flowers with stamens 6-10 mm long. It is unlike that species, endemic to southeastern Brazil, in its larger leaves, more elongate inflorescence with a well-developed rachis, and more numerous capsule valves. *Vantanea spichigeri* also differs from *V. obovata*, and from most other *Vantanea* species, in its very large 8-valved fruit; the fruit of *V. obovata* is only 2.2 by 1.6 cm. Only six other *Vantanea* species have fruits over 3.5 cm long, and four of these have a very different alveolate-rugose endocarp surface; the two large-fruited species with smooth endocarps are recently described *V. deniseae* W. Rodr., endemic to the Manaus area, which differs in a pubescent disk, more than 200 stamens per flower, and a velutinous-sericeous fruit surface, and *V. paraensis* Ducke of Central Amazonia which differs in a shortly velvety-tomentose ovary and glabrous petals.

Not included in the above description is a very closely related form of *Vantanea* which also occurs at Jenaro Herrera, differing from *V. spichigeri* in its glabrous petals and perhaps also the grayish fruit with a dense papillose-puberulous indumentum as well as scattered longer trichomes. This material may be referable to *V. paraensis*, although the strongly villous ovary does not match that species. It is possible that, despite the prominent taxonomic role accorded to petal pubescence in CUATRECASAS's (1961) monograph, this character is intraspecifically variable. In that case both the large-leaved forms of *Vantanea* at Jenaro Herrera may be conspecific, but the longer denser ovary indumentum of both the Peruvian morphs suggests that this plant should not be treated as conspecific with *V. paraensis*.

It is a pleasure to dedicate this new species to its discoverer, R. Spichiger, director of the Geneva botanical Garden and avid student of the flora of the Jenaro Herrera field station.

REFERENCE

CUATRECASAS, J. (1961). A taxonomic revision of the Humiriaceae. *Contr. U.S. National Herbarium* 35: 24-214.